

REMARKS

The new set of claims 30-37 was drafted to avoid the indefiniteness objections.

Main claim 30 recites that the stencils are manufactured at a manufacturing site, sent to marking sites and applied on the objects to be marked at the marking sites, after which the objects are marked.

The applied art does not disclose or suggest these features. The mask 16 of U.S. Patent No. 3,657,510 is located inside a laser resonant cavity (col. 5, lines 7-8), and is not applied on the object 19. U.S. Patent No. 4,467,172 does not disclose a mask whatsoever.

As for the other claims, dependent claim 31 recites that the cutouts are filled with a fusible material and heated to melt the fusible material. Claim 32 recites the nature of the fusible material. Claims 33-34 recite that the stencils are adhered to the objects, and that the filled cutouts are covered by a cover layer. No reference suggests these claimed features.

Independent claim 37 is analogous to claim 30, but limited to gemstone marking.

Wherefore, a favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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